Growing with the *Elaphoglossum*, in considerable profusion, were creeping colonies of the very delicate and delightful *Rhipidopteris peltata*, which has long been one of my personal favorites of all ferns, even though I cannot successfully maintain it here in my Coconut Grove garden.

The hirsute covering of this *Elaphoglossum* varies from russet-brown to almost black, forms of the latter appearing rather as if they were dead, instead of living organisms. The fertile fronds are shorter-stalked than the sterile ones, smaller, and paddle-shaped; they bear a solid mass of sporangia on their undersides and are very distinctive, though seemingly rarely produced in the wild.

According to expert fern-growers, this Elephant-Ear Fern does well in a friable rich compost under high humidity at all times, though over-watering should be avoided. I would assume, from having seen the plants in the wild, that enough water should be given them at the roots to keep them constantly moist, but the mossy logs on which they perch would also afford them adequate drainage even in nature.

Though *Elaphoglossum crinitum* is a spectacular fern which has long been in cultivation, I am interested to find that in D. G. Huttleston's recent valuable "Fern Sources in the United States" (THIS JOURNAL **52**: 97-109. July-Sept. 1962), it is not listed. If it is available in this country, I would be most anxious to hear of a source.—ALEX D. HAWKES, *Coconut Grove 33, Florida.*

OBSERVATIONS ON THE SENSITIVE FERN: SUPPLEMENT.—Last year in my paper "Observations on the Sensitive Fern," I asked the question, "What is the critical period during which destruction of vegetative leaves will induce primordia of sporophylls to change their course of development?" (THIS JOURNAL **53**: 97. 1963). A simple experimental test of plants in a ten foot square at Pilot Knob indicates that, at least in this case, twenty days is long enough.

On June 16th the large vegetative leaves of the selected area

were mowed off with a machete. Some small leaves, arising from tiny branches or young sporelings, were left untouched. Adjoining this area there flourished more extensive stands of *Onoclea* growing under similar conditions, but left undisturbed.

On July 6th, observations showed at least twenty specimens which could be classified as *Onoclea sensibilis* forma *obtusilobata*. Only normal types of sporophyls were observed in the adjoining, unmowed plot. Most of the intermediate leaves in the experimental plot were of the twice-pinnate type with which the name "*obtusilobata*" is usually associated. A few were not two-pinnate; their lateral divisions were narrowly linear and in this respect could be referred to as "lorinserioid."—RALPH C. BENEDICT, *Pilot Knob, New York.*

GROWING MOTHER FERNS.—I was interested in Mr. Morton's recent article on the Mother Ferns (*Asplenium bulbiferum* and *A. daucifolium*). I was surprised to hear that the little plantlets of this fern are ever difficult to grow. I have a plant of *A. bulbiferum* which I bought in this country. Its older fronds are weighted down with very large number of plantlets with little fronds up to about six centimeters in length. These plants drop off, and they litter my greenhouse. If I remove them from the frond I find them very easy to grow, if they are not taken too young. As I am not much more than a beginner at growing ferns and have no special skill, I am sure that anyone could grow my plantlets. My fern has two types of fronds; some intermediate fertile fronds have narrow ultimate segments, marginal sori, and bulbils on the upper surface.

I am interested in Australian ferns, which I grow from spores, when kind friends send me any. I wish I could see some of your American ferns. You must have a bewildering variety.[1]—M. I. TETLEY, *Valley Howe, Cartmel, Grange-over-Sands, Lancashire, England.*

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[1]Following the receipt of this communication, I wrote to Miss Tetley asking if she would like to receive spores of American ferns, and she replied that she would be very happy to have them, especially spores of temperate ferns that would be likely to be hardy in Lancashire.—C.V.M.